

## Safe and Healthy Kids



## Child Care Consulting



### **Program Description:**

Research suggests that the more education a child care provider has on child care topics, including basic health issues, the better quality of care children in their care receive. Children are particularly susceptible to illnesses due to immature immune systems and to injuries due to their lack of judgment. A public health nurse child care consultant provides licensed homes and centers with information about public health issues, safety and child development. This position requires knowledge of licensing regulations regarding health and safety procedures, institutional management and the relationship between parent, child and child care provider. We can assist the provider, upon their request, in foreseeing situations of risk and work with them toward minimizing the problems identified. Prevention services include the importance of immunization record checking, consulting on health policies, advice on what is “safe” play equipment and advice for providers and parents on how to care for special needs children in child care, especially the medically or developmentally delayed.

### **Delivery Measures:**

- 80 scheduled Infant Care Consulting visits to Centers with and infant room
- 13 presentations given to about 270 childcare providers
- DSHS orientations held for potential child care providers, promoting child care consulting services

### **Notes and Updates:**

Healthy Child Care Washington (HCCW) utilizes a web-based reporting system. This reporting system documents system development activities, child care provider's awareness and behaviors, number and type of parent and provider communications and child care policies and environments that improve the health and safety of children in child care.

**In 2006, quarterly reports containing our local data are now available.**

### **Challenges:**

Staff continues to participate in providing classes to Spanish speaking providers with the help of an interpreter.